

**Security Council**

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Identical letters dated 20 July 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Following my letter dated 16 July 2009 (S/2009/365), I wish to draw your attention to two additional severe violations of resolution 1701 (2006) that only exacerbate the incident that took place in Khirbat Slim on 14 July 2009.

During the first incident — on 17 July 2009 — 15 Lebanese civilians crossed the Blue Line near a UNIFIL position adjacent to the Shuba village. The group penetrated 175 metres into Israeli territory and planted there Hizbullah and Lebanese flags. These individuals subsequently returned across the Blue Line back into Lebanese territory.

During this incident, UNIFIL refrained from taking any action to prevent the crossing of these individuals into Israeli territory. Some of the organizers of this violation even claimed that they had coordinated their actions with UNIFIL. In that regard, in an interview on 17 July 2009 on Lebanese NTV, Mr. Qassem Hashem — a member of Lebanese parliament and one of the organizers of the illegal action — offered the dubious claim that their actions were coordinated with the relevant authorities, including UNIFIL. In any case, given the proximity of the violation to a UNIFIL position, Israel would have expected that UNIFIL intervene in time to prevent this violation.

Such violations jeopardize the fragile stability along Israel's northern border and stand in contravention of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), in particular paragraph 8 that calls for "full respect for the Blue Line by both parties". The aforementioned incident is another clear reminder that there are elements in Lebanon that seek to undermine resolution 1701 (2006) and the stability of the region.

Israel calls upon the Government of Lebanon to exercise its authority and prevent such violations of the Blue Line that endanger the stability along our mutual border. In addition, Israel calls upon the Secretary-General to exercise his influence and to ensure that UNIFIL will prevent any future incidents from occurring.

Another serious incident took place in Khirbat Slim over the weekend in which 14 peacekeepers of UNIFIL were injured by so-called Lebanese "civilians" after attempting to search a suspicious house in this area. UNIFIL vehicles were also damaged during the incident.



This severe episode — in the same place where an arms cache of the terrorist organization Hizbullah exploded on 14 July 2009 — verifies that Hizbullah consistently obstructs the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) by building new military infrastructure south of the Litani River, and by preventing UNIFIL from fulfilling its mandate, including by using civilians in a violent manner to obstruct UNIFIL's mission. The presence of arms in southern Lebanon, as well as this obstruction of movement, reflects a pattern that must be confronted. In order to ensure that the area south of the Litani River is indeed "an area free of any armed personnel, assets and weapons other than those of the Government of Lebanon and of UNIFIL", the Lebanese Army and UNIFIL must re-adapt their activity to the new reality in which Hizbullah is rebuilding its military infrastructure south of the Litani River within the civilian population.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gabriela **Shalev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative